

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4-6, 8-9, 11-14, and 16-17 as follows:

1. (Original) A membrane for separating plasma or serum from blood, having a porosity of not more than 30%.

2. (Original) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of through holes are provided so as to penetrate from one side to the other side of the membrane.

3. (Original) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to claim 2, wherein diameters of the through holes fall within the range of 0.05 to 2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Currently Amended) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 3~~, wherein mean surface roughness of the membrane is not more than 100 nm.

5. (Currently Amended) The plasma or serum separating membrane according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 4~~, used as a corpuscle blocking membrane for preventing contamination by corpuscles.

6. (Currently Amended) A filter apparatus comprising:

a first filter member through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles; and  
a plasma or serum separating membrane according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 5~~,

serially connected in subsequent stage with the first filter member.

7. (Original) The filter apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the filter member serves as a first filter member, the plasma or serum separating membrane serves as a second filter

member, and a third filter member made of fiber having a mean fiber diameter of not less than 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and a bulk density of not more than 0.3  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  is provided in precedent stage of the first filter member.

8. (Currently Amended) The filter apparatus according to claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein the first filter member is made of fiber, and mean fiber diameter is from 0.2 to 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and filled density is from 0.1 to 0.5  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ .

9. (Currently Amended) A filter apparatus comprising:  
a container body having an opening at its one end;  
a cylindrical member attached to the opening of the container body in liquid-tight manner;  
a first filter member placed in the cylindrical member, through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles; and  
a second filter member comprising the membrane for separating plasma or serum from blood according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, serially connected with the first filter member in subsequent stage in the cylindrical member;  
wherein the first and the second filter members are disposed in a filter accommodation part, a blood accommodation part is formed in precedent stage of the filter accommodation part, and a plasma or serum storage part is formed on the downstream side of the filter accommodation part.

10. (Original) The filter apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

a third filter member provided in precedent stage of the first filter member, made of fiber having a mean fiber diameter of not less than 3.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and a bulk density of not more than 0.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

11. (Currently Amended) The filter apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 to 9, wherein the first filter member through which plasma can move faster than corpuscles has a property of adsorbing fibrinogen contained in blood, plasma or a fibrinogen solution.

12. (Currently Amended) The filter apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 to 11, wherein an anticoagulant component is stored in at least a part of the internal space of the filter apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) The filter apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 to 11, wherein an accelerator for accelerating coagulation of blood is stored in at least a part of the internal space.

14. (Currently Amended) The filter apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 to 13, wherein an aqueous solution having an osmotic pressure of 200 to 300 mOsm/kg is added to at least a part of the section from the blood accommodation part to the first and the second filter members.

15. (Original) A blood testing container (The filter apparatus) according to claim 14, wherein the aqueous solution contains an internal standard substance.

16. (Currently Amended) The filter apparatus according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 9 to 15, wherein a volume ratio of the blood accommodation part, filter accommodation part and plasma or serum storage part is in the range of 0.5-2:1:1-10.

17. (Currently Amended) A blood testing container including the filter apparatus

according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6 to 16, wherein a strip of immunochromatographical diagnostic agent to be added to the separated plasma or serum is stored in the blood testing container.